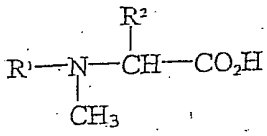
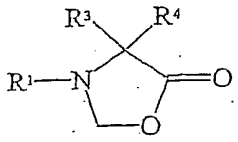
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Original) A compound of formula I or II:



I

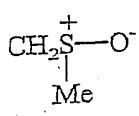


II

in which

R^1 is an N-protecting group or a peptide;

R^2 is $CHCH_30Ac$ or CHR^5R^6 in which R^5 is hydrogen and R^6 is OAc, $CONH_2$, SBn,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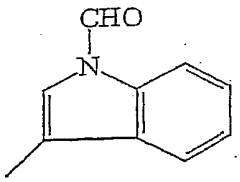
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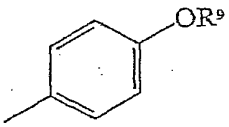
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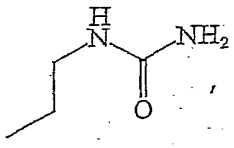
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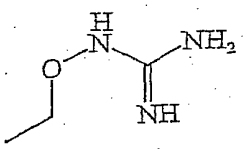
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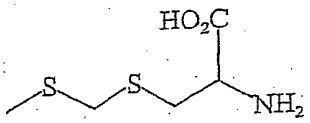
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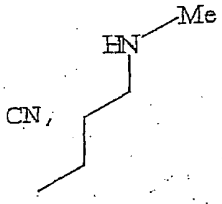
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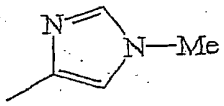
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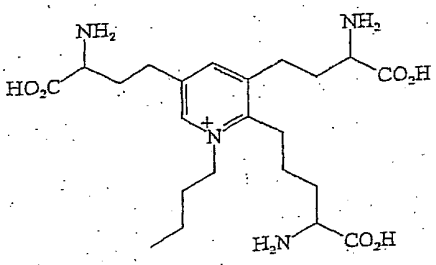
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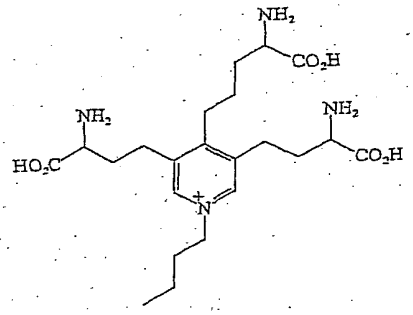
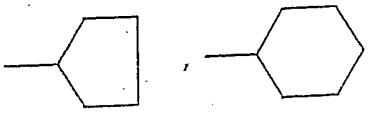
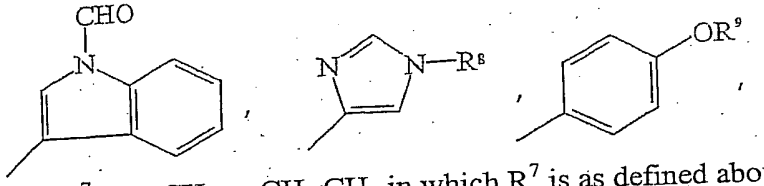

,

CO2R7 or CH2CO2R7 in which R7 is a carboxyl protecting group ; and

R3 is CHCH3OAc, 

or CHR5R6 in which R5 is as defined above and R6 is OAc, SBn, CONHTrt,

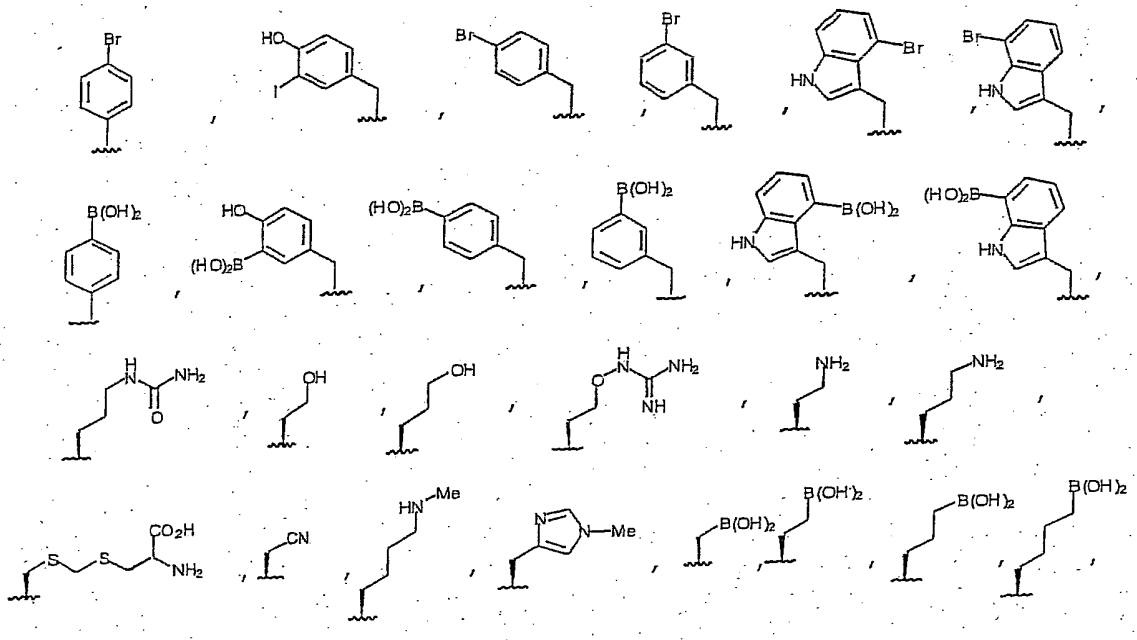


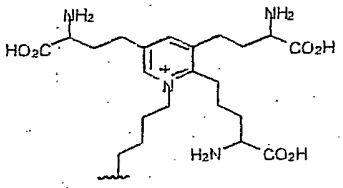
CO_2R^7, $CHCO_2R^7$, CH_2CH_3 or $CH{=}CH_2$ in which R^7 is as defined above, R^8 is a histidine protecting group and R^9 is a phenol protecting group;

R^4 is hydrogen or R^4 is methyl when R^3 is OAc;

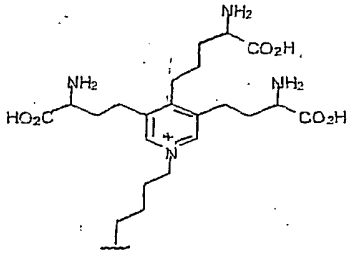
R^3 together with R^4 forms cyclopentyl; or

R^2 and R^3 independently represent optionally protected amino acid side chains selected from:



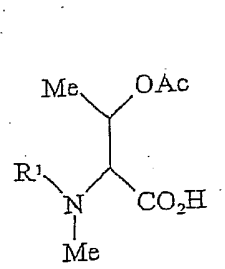


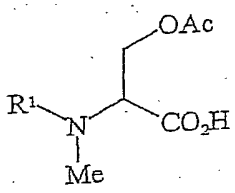
and

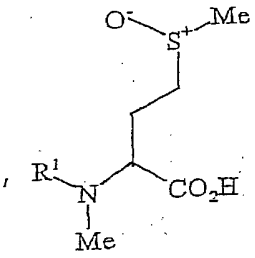


salts, hydrates, solvates, derivatives, tautomers and/or isomers thereof.

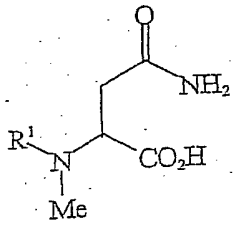
2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1, which is selected from:





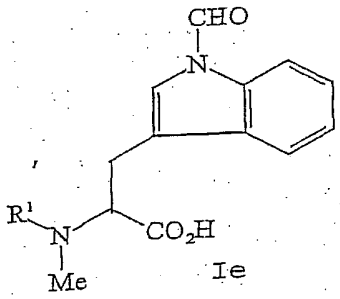


Ia



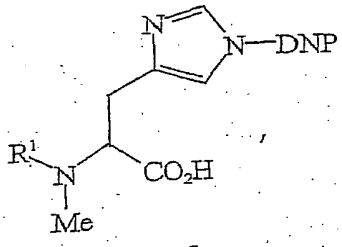
Id

Ib

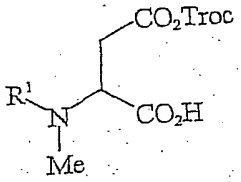


Ie

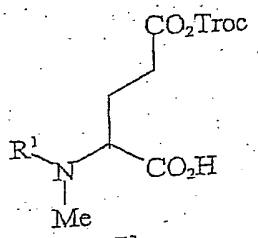
Ic



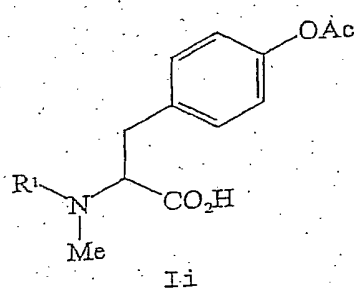
If



Ig



Ih



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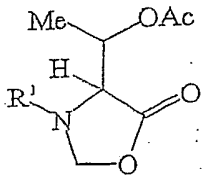
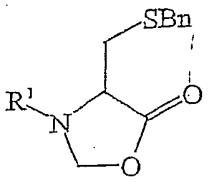
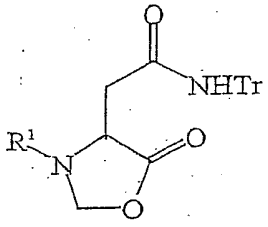


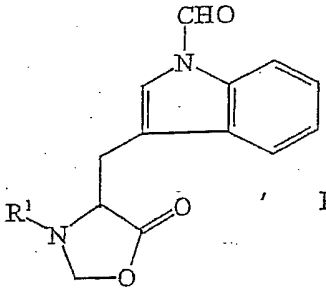
IIa



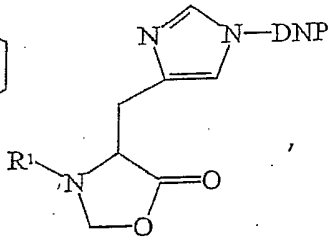
IIb



IIc



IId



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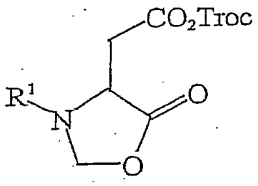
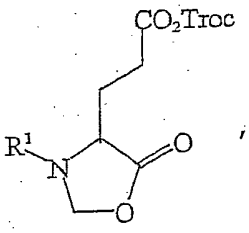


IIf



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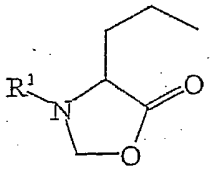

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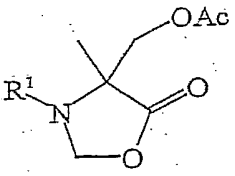

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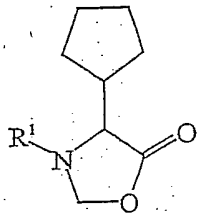

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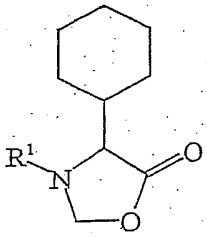

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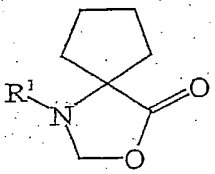

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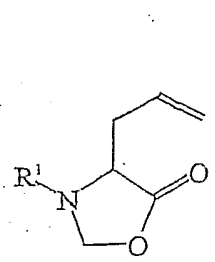
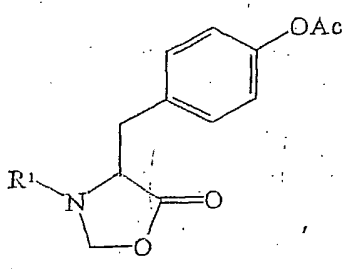


IIm

and



IIn

in which R^1 is as defined in claim 1.

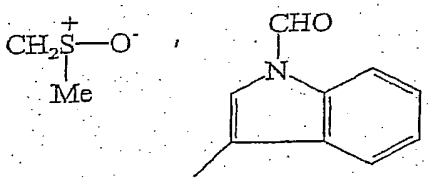
3. (Currently amended) A process for preparing the compound of formula I as defined in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ which comprises reductive cleavage of the compound of formula II as defined in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~.

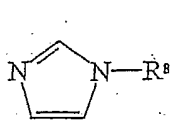
4. (Original) A process according to claim 3 in which the reductive cleavage employs trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) as the acid and triethylsilane (Et_3SiH) as the reductant.

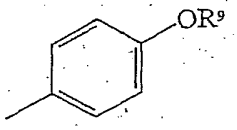
5. (Currently amended) A process for preparing the compound of formula I or II as defined in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ when

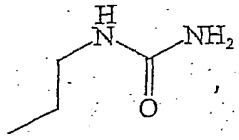
R^1 is an N-protecting group or a peptide;

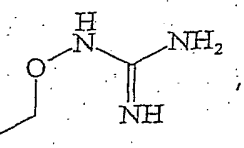
R^2 is $CHCH_3OAc$ or CHR^5R^6 in which R^5 is hydrogen and R^6 is OAc, $CONH_2$, SBn,

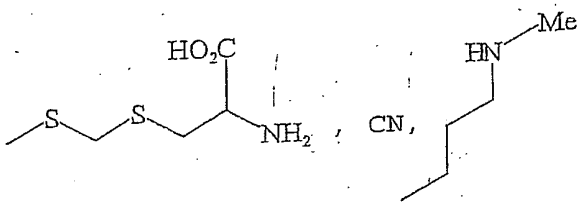
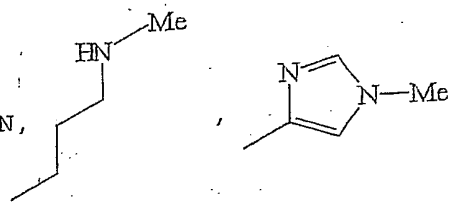
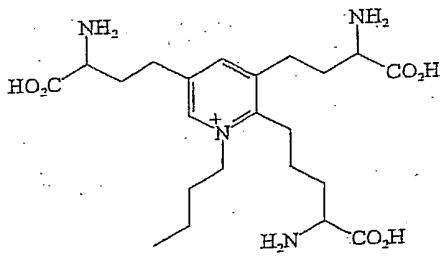
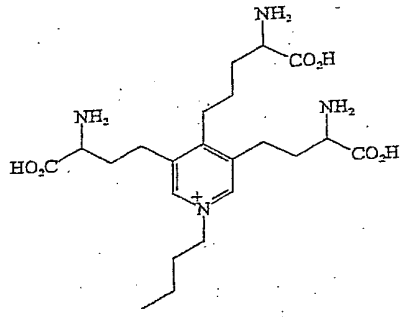




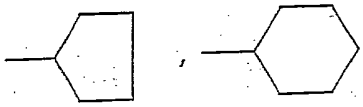




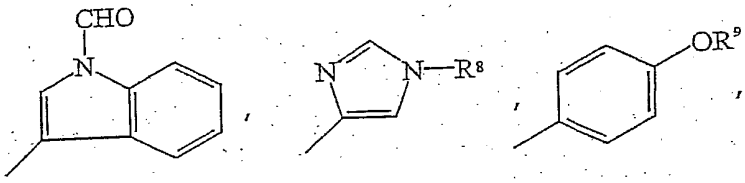


CO_2R^7 or $CH_2CO_2R^7$ in which R^7 is a carboxyl protecting group; and

R^3 is $CHCH_3OAc$, 

or CHR^5R^6 in which R^5 is as defined above and R^6 is OAc, SBn, CONHTrt,

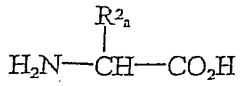


CO_2R^7 $CHCO_2R^7$, CH_2CH_3 or $CH{=}CH_2$ in which R^7 is as defined above, R^8 is a histidine protecting group and R^9 is a phenol protecting group;

R^4 is hydrogen or R^4 is methyl when R^3 is OAc;

R^3 together with R^4 forms cyclopentyl; which comprises the steps of:

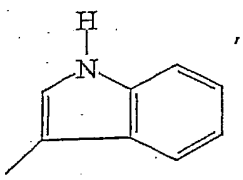
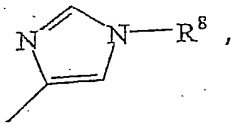
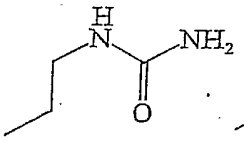
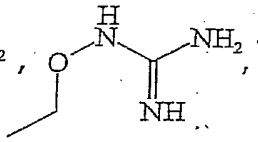
(a) converting a compound of formula III



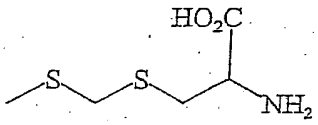
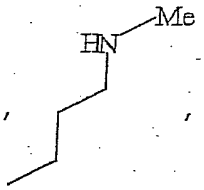
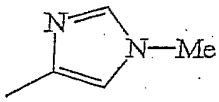
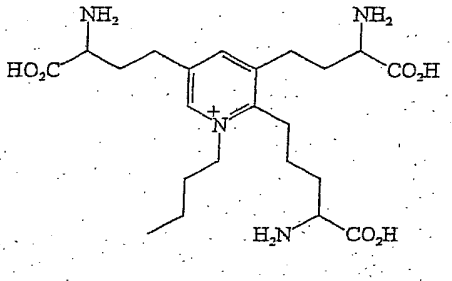
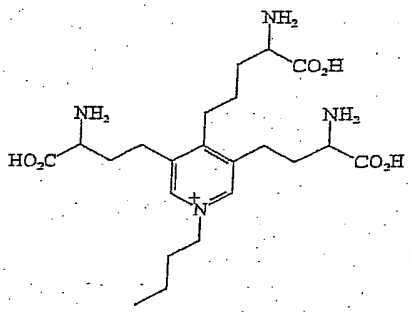
III

in which

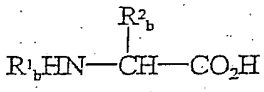
$R^2{}_a$ is CHOHMe or $CHR^5R^6{}_a$ in which R is as defined above and $R^6{}_a$ is OH, SH, $CONH_2$,

in which R^8 is as defined above,

CO_2H or CH_2CONH_2 or salts thereof into a compound of formula IV

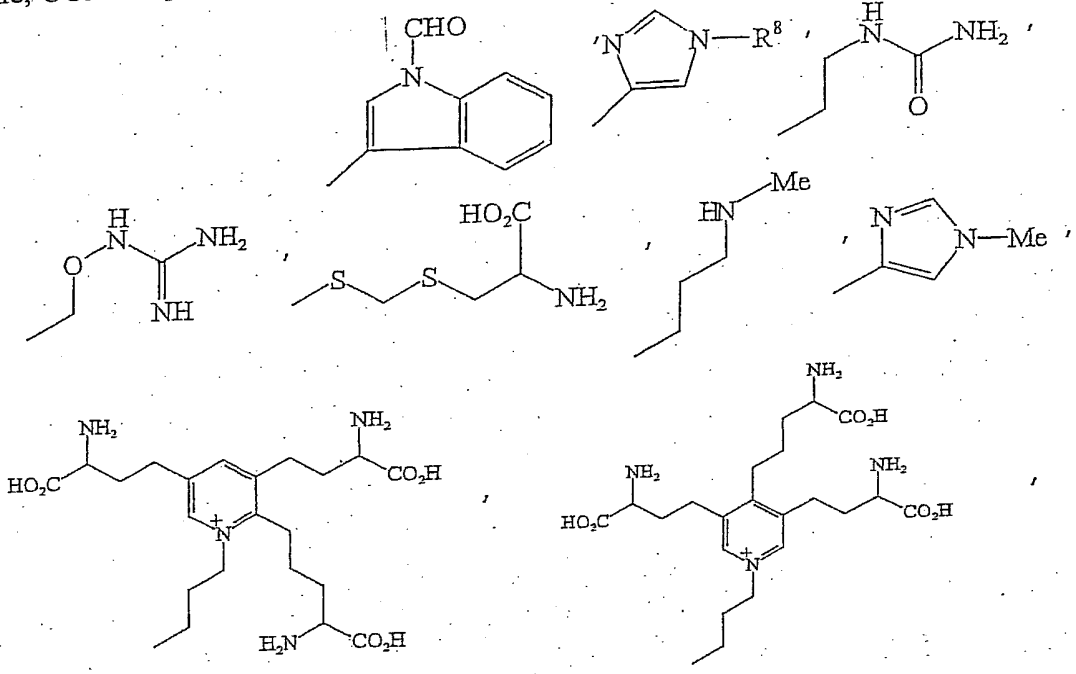


IV

in which

$R^1{}_b$ is an N-protecting group;

$R^2{}_b$ is CHOAcMe or $CHR^5R^6{}_b$ in which R^5 is as defined above and $R^6{}_b$ is OAc, SBn, SMe, $CONHR^1{}_b$ in which $R^1{}_b$ is as defined above,



CO^2H or CH_2CO_2H ;

(b) oxazolidination of the compound of formula IV to form the compound of formula II; and

(c) reductive cleavage of the compound of formula II to form the compound of formula I.

6. (Original) A process according to claim 5, in which the conversion step (a) results in the protection of the amino group on the compound of formula III to produce the compound of formula IV.

7. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 5 ~~or claim 6~~, in which the oxazolidination step (b) uses a formaldehyde source in an organic solvent.

8. (Original) A process according to claim 7, in which the formaldehyde source is paraformaldehyde and paratoluenesulphonic acid (TsOH).

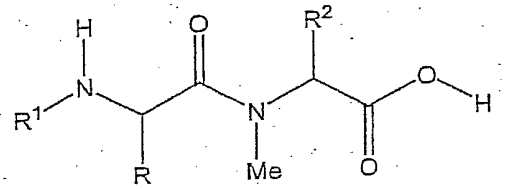
9. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 7 ~~or claim 8~~, in which the organic solvent is benzene or toluene.

10. (Currently amended) Use of the compound of formula I or II defined in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ in the synthesis of peptides.

11. (Currently amended) A peptide which includes the compound of formula I or II as defined in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~.

12. (Original) A peptide according to claim 11, which is a dipeptide.

13. (Original) A peptide according to claim 12, in which the dipeptide is of the formula V



V

in which

R^1 and R^2 are as defined in claim 1 or claim 2, R' is an optionally protected amino acid side chain and R is H or a carboxyl-protecting group.

14. (Currently amended) A kit for use in synthesising peptides which comprises

(a) at least one compound of formula I or formula II as defined in claim 1 ~~or claim 2 or peptide as defined in any one of claims 11 to 13~~; and

(b) optionally at least one other N-methyl amino acid, its precursor oxazolidinones, an optionally substituted amino acid, or protected forms thereof,

said compounds, N-methyl amino acids, oxazolidinones and/or amino acids being held separately.

15. (New) A kit for use in synthesising peptides which comprises

(a) peptide as defined in claim 11; and

(b) optionally at least one other N-methyl amino acid, its precursor oxazolidinones, an optionally substituted amino acid, or protected forms thereof,

said compounds, N-methyl amino acids, oxazolidinones and/or amino acids being held separately.